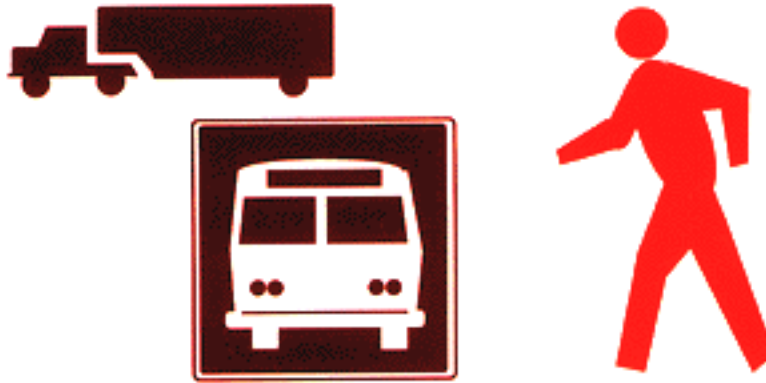


EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN



DON'T HAVE A BLIND SPOT WHEN IT COMES TO WALKING SAFELY NEAR VERY LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES

Most drivers know to allow extra space between themselves and trucks and buses-these large vehicles need room to move in traffic, and it's wise to give them a wide berth. But all too often, when we're not in a car, the good sense that helps us stay safe around large vehicles while driving doesn't carry over when we're walking close to large trucks and buses. The result of this inattention can be serious-pedestrians put themselves at risk when they cross inattentively in front of transit or school buses. sadly, a high percentage of single-vehicle fatal a bus accidents involves pedestrians. the need to rethink our walking habits when around large vehicles is obvious.

We can help to avoid trouble when walking near large vehicles by keeping in mind the fact that the driver of a truck or bus has several "blind spots"-certain areas around the vehicle that the driver simply cannot see, even with the specialized side view and fisheye mirrors that modern large vehicles are equipped with for safety. We have to do our part by being "heads-up" in those situations when we find ourselves walking near large vehicles

Remember to wait until the bus leaves the bus stop before trying to cross the street. Don't cross in front of, or behind, a bus standing at a bus stop. As the bus moves away from the curb, the driver's attention will be directed at vehicle traffic, looking for a gap in traffic big enough for the bus. Stay on the sidewalk until the bus leaves the stop.

STAY OUT OF THE NO-ZONE WHEN WALKING NEAR LARGE VEHICLES

The key to pedestrian safety when it comes to large vehicles and buses is to **KNOW THE NO-ZONES**. NO-ZONES are those areas on all sides, even the front and back, of large vehicles, where the driver cannot see other vehicles or fixed objects...or pedestrians.

PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THESE TYPICAL NO-ZONE SITUATIONS

- **Behind The Vehicle-** When it becomes necessary for a truck to back-up, perhaps to make a delivery, the vehicle will probably block the sidewalk for a short time. Don't race behind as the

truck backs up, trying to avoid a little inconvenience! The driver cannot see you, and, jut like thinking about racing to beat a train at a grad crossing, it's a race you won't win. Remember that a truck or bus that appears to be standing still may move suddenly, particularly in crowded city traffic. Stay safe, and stay clear of backing trucks and buses.

- **Side Blind Spots-** When a large vehicle makes a turn at a street corner, that long distance between front and rear wheels means that the rear wheels may "off-track" and run across the pedestrian area at the curb. A skilled drive knows just how the wheels must track in order to make a safe turn. Being alert and staying out of blind spots are keys to pedestrian safety when around large vehicles and buses.

BUSES AND LARGE TRUCKS TAKE LONGER TO STOP - NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SPEED

It's easy to understand that a lot of power is required to move a bus or a large truck through traffic. It's important to realize that once that large vehicle gets rolling, it's going to take a longer distance to come to a safe stop-much farther than for a passenger car! Don't be in a hurry and cross in front of a bus or truck that's approaching the crosswalk-sudden moves on your part are difficult for even a well-trained professional driver to anticipate. Don't have a blind spot to the large vehicles around you. Remember these safe walking rules, and be aware!

U.S. Department of Transportation



Federal Highway Administration

Office of Highway Safety

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